AUTODOC CLUB

How to change engine thermostat on **BMW E36** – replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL

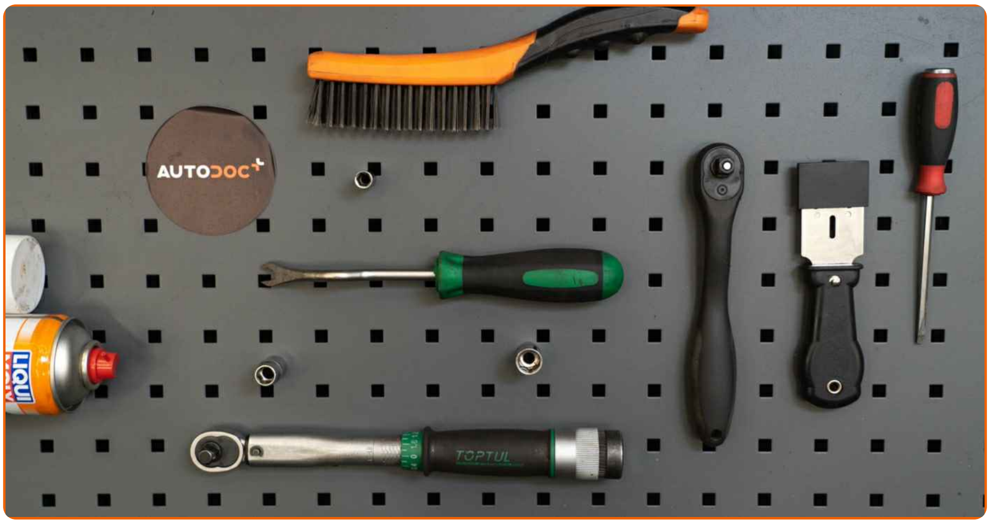


Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 316i 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 520i 2.0 24V, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 525i 2.5 24V, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 525iX 2.5 24V, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Convertible (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Compact (E36) 318ti 1.8, BMW 3 Touring (E36) 320i 2.0, (+ 18)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: ENGINE THERMOSTAT – BMW E36. AUTODOC RECOMMENDS:



- All-purpose cleaning spray
- Sealant
- Torque wrench
- Drive socket # 7
- Drive socket # 10
- Drive socket # 13
- Ratchet wrench
- Clip removal tool
- Seal scraper
- Flat screwdriver
- Funnel
- Fluid container
- Fender cover

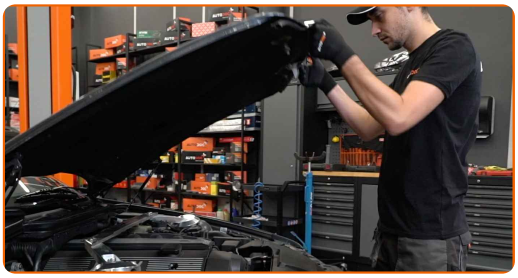
BUY TOOLS

Replacement: engine thermostat – BMW E36. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Check the condition of the coolant every time you replace the thermostat. Change the coolant if necessary.
- Please note: all work on the car – BMW E36 – should be done with the engine switched off.

CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1 Open the hood.



2 Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.



3 Remove the fasteners of the air duct housing. Use a clip removal tool.

4 Remove the air distribution housing assembly.



5 Unscrew the coolant reservoir cap.



6 Prepare a container for fluids.



7 Open the coolant drain tap.



8 Drain the coolant from the engine.



Replacement: engine thermostat – BMW E36. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Caution! The coolant can be very hot.
- Wear gloves to prevent contact with hot liquid.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.
- Wait until the coolant has completely flowed out of the drain hole.

9 Close the coolant drain tap.



10 Loosen the clamps of the coolant hoses. Use a drive socket #7. Use a ratchet wrench.



11 Detach the coolant pipe.



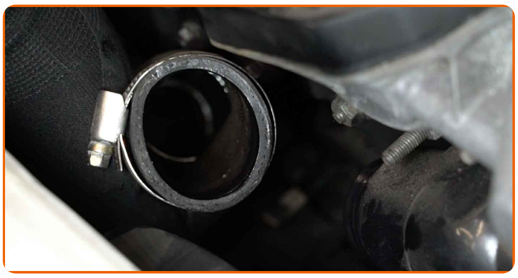
12

Loosen the coolant hose clamp. Use a drive socket #7. Use a ratchet wrench.



13

Detach the coolant pipe.



14

Detach the coolant pipe bracket. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



15

Unscrew the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



16 Clean the thermostat housing fasteners. Use all-purpose cleaning spray.



17 Unscrew the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



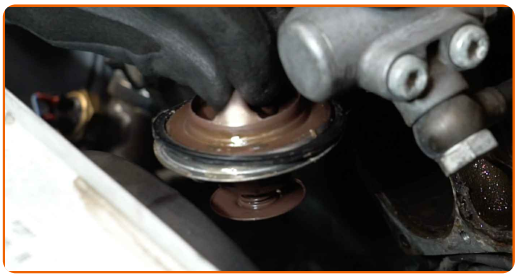
18 Remove the thermostat housing.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: engine thermostat – BMW E36. To avoid damaging the part when removing it, do not use excessive force.
- Caution! Coolant may leak out of the coolant lines and thermostat housing.

19 Remove the thermostat.



20 Clean the thermostat housing mounting seat. Use a flat screwdriver. Use a seal scraper. Use all-purpose cleaning spray.



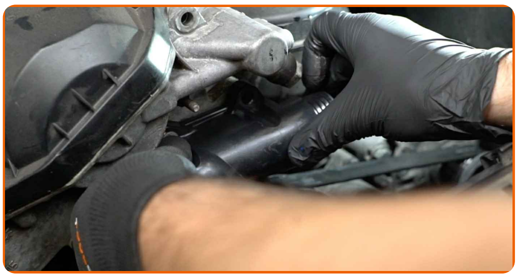
21 Install a new thermostat.



22 Treat the thermostat housing mounting seat. Use a sealant.



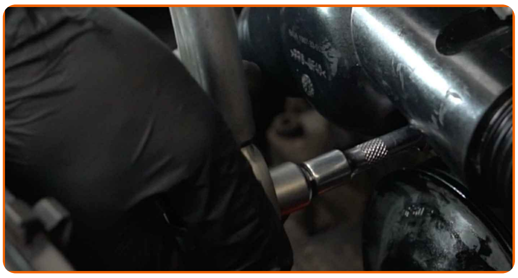
23 Install the new thermostat housing.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: engine thermostat – BMW E36. Do not use excessive force during installation. This may damage the part.

24 Tighten the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 7 nm torque.



25 Attach the coolant pipe bracket. Use a drive socket #13. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 11 nm torque.



26 Tighten the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 7 nm torque.

27 Clean the thermostat housing fasteners. Use all-purpose cleaning spray.



28 Connect the coolant hoses to the thermostat housing.



29 Fasten the clamps of the coolant hoses. Use a drive socket #7. Use a ratchet wrench.



30 Remove the coolant reservoir cap.



31 Insert the funnel.



32 Pour coolant in the coolant reservoir.



Replacement: engine thermostat – BMW E36. Professionals recommend:

- Only use the coolant recommended by the manufacturer.
- The coolant level should be at the MAX mark.
- Wait until the air goes out of the system.

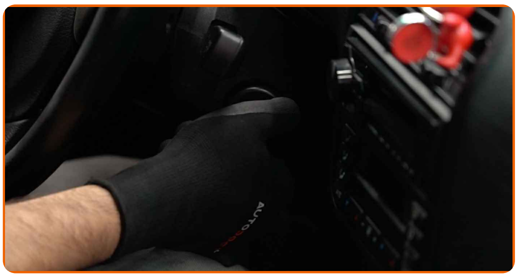
33 Open the coolant system bleed screw. Use a flat screwdriver.



Replacement: engine thermostat – BMW E36. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- This should be done in order to remove residual air from the cooling system and to check if the components are operating correctly.

34 Run the engine for a few minutes. This should be done in order to remove residual air from the cooling system and to check if the components are operating correctly.



35 Close the coolant system bleed screw. Use a flat screwdriver.

36 Shut off the engine.

37 Check the coolant level. If necessary, top up to the required level.



38 Install the coolant reservoir cap.



39 Screw on the coolant reservoir cap.



40 Reinstall the air distribution housing assembly.

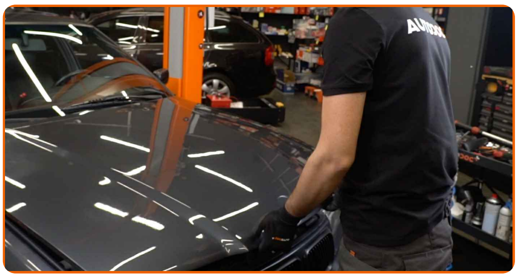


41 Install the air duct housing fasteners.

42 Remove the fender protection cover.



43 Close the hood.

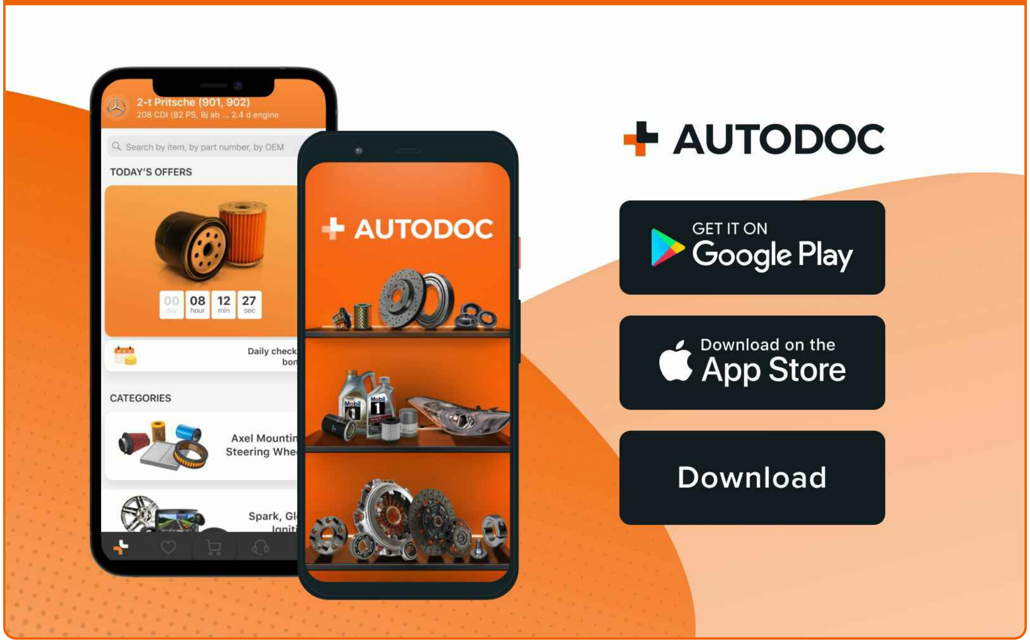


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